

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 EB-08

COME-00 /077 W

-----081394 221908Z /45

R 220920Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3061

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 5339

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2369

BRUSSELS PASS TO USEEC

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MY

SUBJECT: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PLANS ANOTHER U.S. VISIT

1. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE NEWLY FORMED AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL MARCH 21, MALAYSIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR ANNOUNCED THAT HE PLANNED TO HEAD A TRADE MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES "LATER THIS YEAR" (MAHATHIR'S SPEECH AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY).

2. AT A LUNCHEON MARCH 22 SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT CONFIRMED TO THE AMBASSADOR THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S PLANS. THEY SAID THAT HIS TRIP, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MAY, WILL NOW TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER TO ACCOMMODATE A SPEAKING DATE FOR HIM AT THAT TIME
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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. CURRENT PLANNING CALLS FOR THE TRADE MISSION HEADED BY MAHATHIR TO VISIT AT LEAST FIVE AMERICAN CITIES. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE HOPED MAHATHIR WOULD FIND TIME TO CALL ON PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON, THE SOURCES INDICATED THAT THIS WAS LIKELY TO BE POSSIBLE.

3. THE GOM OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT MAHATHIR WOULD ALSO LEAD SIMILAR TRADE MISSIONS TO JAPAN AND THE EEC THIS YEAR. IN ELABORATION, THE OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT WHEN TRADE DELEGATIONS GO TO THE U.S., JAPAN AND THE EEC THEY WOULD BE HEADED BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. THE AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO TOLD CONFIDENTIALLY THAT ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS HAVE PRESSED THE GOM HARD TO SEND MAHATHIR ON A SIMILAR MISSION TO THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT IF SUCH A MISSION GOES TO EASTERN EUROPE IT WILL BE HEADED BY A DEPUTY MINISTER.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: OVIP, MY, US, (MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMMAD)
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